

Mr. Speaker, Garrett Gamble's life was taken far too soon. Naming a post office after him is just a small honor we can give to a man who gave his life for his country. I urge Members to support this bill to name a post office in Gamble's honor.

I will soon yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), my colleague and the bill's sponsor, to tell us more about the honorable soldier Lance Corporal Garrett W. Gamble.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4877, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in Sugar Land, Texas, as LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building.

It has been stated that this amazing young man was only 20 years old when he gave the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan. Garrett will be remembered for his bravery, his determination, and, it has been said, a big personality. He is survived by his parents, stepfather, and two younger brothers.

Mr. Speaker, I think, again, we are seeing multiple examples of our brave, dedicated citizens in the United States giving the ultimate sacrifice. I feel strongly that we should pass this bill to commemorate Lance Corporal Gamble's sacrifice for his country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina. I would also like to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. CHAFFETZ, the ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS, and the entire committee for getting H.R. 4877 to the House floor this afternoon.

This bill names a post office a few miles from my home after Lance Corporal Garrett Gamble, United States Marine Corps. Garrett died defending our freedom on March 11, 2010, in Afghanistan. He was 20 years young.

Garrett died before I could meet him, but I will never forget him because of the stories I was told after God called him home. His mother, Chelle, told me about a 10-year-old boy who got very angry when he saw those towers fall, the plane crash into the Pentagon, and the plane go down in rural Pennsylvania on 9/11. He never wanted to see his homeland attacked like that again. The drive to join the Marine Corps had started, and that drive would never end.

Garrett wanted to destroy evil. He knew that joining the Marine Corps was his calling when he saw al Qaeda's evil firsthand. Garrett and some marines were on a foot patrol in a small Afghan village. Garrett must have flashed that big smile because a young Afghan boy waved at Garrett. Garrett waved back and held up a small mint for the boy to have.

The boy walked up slowly, took the mint, and ran to his father to show him what the American had given him. Garrett watched in horror as the dad beat the tar out of his son. He kicked him; he punched him; he knocked him senseless. Garrett wanted to shoot, but he could not. He got back to base and asked the old-timers what the heck happened. Why did that boy get beat for this small mint?

The old-timers told him, al Qaeda was watching. When we left, they may go to that man's home and kill that man—the father, his boy, his mother, his sisters, his brothers. That was a plea from the father: Don't kill my family. My boy did wrong by taking this small mint. Please leave us alone.

Garrett knew he was no longer fighting for America; he was fighting for people all over the world who craved freedom.

The final story says everything about Garrett. When he finally enlisted, he was a junior in high school—Austin High School, the Bulldogs. He told his best friend: I have done it. I have joined the Marine Corps.

His best friend became irate. He never thought Garrett would do that. He never thought he would join the Marine Corps. He said: I can't believe you joined the Marine Corps. You may get killed. I would never, ever join the Corps.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my friend from North Carolina.

Garrett, in an act of true human love, put his arms on his best friend's shoulders, looked him square in the eye, and whispered: That is why I did it. That is why I did it.

Garrett did not earn this honor by his death; he earned it by his life. Because of this bill, Garrett's love will be on permanent display at 3130 Grants Lake Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas, the Garrett W. Gamble Post Office.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 4877.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4877.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CALEB A. NELSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4975) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 4975

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CALEB A. NELSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, shall be known and designated as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4975, introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD).

Petty Officer Nelson was a Navy SEAL who served a tour of duty in Iraq and, later, another tour in Afghanistan. On his 2011 tour in Afghanistan, he was killed when his vehicle struck an explosive device.

His friends and family remember him as a cherished teammate, a gifted SEAL operator, and a loving husband and father.

Mr. Speaker, Petty Officer Nelson made a great sacrifice by giving his life in the service of his country. I urge Members to honor his sacrifice by naming a post office in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD), the sponsor of this bill.

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Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member for helping us get this legislation through today. I also thank my fellow Nebraskans, Congressman FORTENBERRY and Congressman SMITH,

for their cosponsorship of this important legislation.

Today I stand with a heavy heart and great pride to honor the life and legacy of Omaha native, Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson.

On October 1, 2011, Petty Officer Nelson gave his life in service to his country when he was killed on a combat patrol by an explosive device that struck his vehicle in Zabul province, Afghanistan. His selfless and courageous service to our country will never be forgotten. Though we cannot repay the ultimate sacrifice that Petty Officer Nelson made while protecting our Nation, his legacy will now have a permanent physical memory through H.R. 4975.

This legislation will designate the post office located at 5720 South 142nd Street, near my home in Omaha, Nebraska, as the Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building.

Our Nation is defended by men and women who sacrifice to keep us free, protect our liberty, and strengthen our country. We have lost many brave men and women who have left this country to protect our life, and I am proud and humbled to stand here before this House to honor the life and bravery of one of those men today.

Petty Officer Nelson entered the Navy in the engineering career field and graduated from boot camp on October 11, 2005. After graduating from Navy technical training, Petty Officer Nelson was accepted to attend Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL training. He graduated from SEAL training in November 2006.

As a member of the elite team of Navy SEALs, Petty Officer Nelson continued to serve his country as a seasoned combat veteran, with a deployment to Iraq in 2009, and a deployment to Afghanistan in March 2011.

Petty Officer Nelson's awards and decorations speak to his selfless heroism. These awards include the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon, NATO Service Medal, Expert Rifle Ribbon, and Expert Pistol Ribbon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ASHFORD. To those who knew Petty Officer Nelson best—his parents, wife, and two sons—he will be remembered as a loving son, husband, and father. To his fellow Navy SEALs, he will be remembered as a cherished teammate and a gifted SEAL operator. To this country, he will be remembered as an embodiment of the Navy's motto: "Not for self, but for country."

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the courage and the

valor exhibited by Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb Nelson and honor the ultimate sacrifice he made.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4975.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4975.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LOUIS VAN IERSEL POST OFFICE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4761

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LOUIS VAN IERSEL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, shall be known and designated as the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Louis Van Iersel Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4761, introduced by Congresswoman JUDY CHU of California.

Louis Van Iersel's story is an unbelievable one. Louis came to the United States from the Netherlands, and he served his new home with fervor. On his first day in the United States, he enlisted in the Army and soon after

was deployed to Europe as part of World War I. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for saving hundreds of Americans' lives during the war.

At the start of World War II, Louis tried to enlist in the Army alongside his sons, but he was turned away because of his age.

So what did he do?

He enlisted with the Marines instead. Through his life, Van Iersel truly wanted to serve the United States, the country he adopted as his home.

I urge Members to support the bill to name a post office in Van Iersel's honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant Louis Van Iersel, a decorated veteran of both World Wars, by offering a bill to designate the U.S. Post Office in the city of Sierra Madre, California, the Louis Van Iersel Post Office.

Sergeant Van Iersel was the true embodiment of an American hero. An immigrant from the Netherlands, his acts of heroism began even before he set foot on American soil. On his voyage to the United States in 1917, he assisted in the rescue of 27 shipwrecked British soldiers torpedoed by a German vessel.

On the very day he arrived in the United States, Mr. Van Iersel registered for the draft and enlisted in the Army. He didn't speak a word of English, but he learned while working in the Army kitchen. He was eventually assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and was deployed to France at the end of World War I.

It was in France that Mr. Van Iersel showed extraordinary heroism time and time again. He first gained notice when he and a comrade braved German gunfire to carry 17 soldiers to safety. He was then promoted to sergeant, when he led a small reconnaissance patrol and found enemy trenches. It was there that he was able to use his native language of German to infiltrate them and convince the officer in charge to surrender 60 German soldiers.

From there, Mr. Van Iersel increased his efforts to gain information on German troop movements. In one particularly treacherous situation, Mr. Van Iersel braved heavy fire to swim across the icy Seine River. He overheard German soldiers discussing a heavy artillery barrage that would have wiped out the whole American battalion.

With this critical information, he swam back across the river and reported his findings, enabling the American troops to take cover before the attack began. Because of his actions, he saved 1,000 American lives. For all his efforts, he was awarded dozen of medals, including two military medals, the French Croix de Guerre and the American Medal of Honor. These are the